

CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is the following:

1. A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:
 2 a housing having a substantially vertical source-contact surface with a channel
 3 extending therefrom; and
 4 a flap coupled to the source-contact surface, the flap having a source-backing
 5 surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing, wherein the
 6 source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the channel form an opening
 7 for receiving an edge of a source to be scanned.

1 2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein a portion of the vertical source-
 2 contact surface of the housing comprises a platen to permit scanning of a source
 3 document in a vertical position.

1 3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing contains a front panel
 2 with an inclined surface adjacent to the opening, the inclined surface forming a wider
 3 opening at the surface of the front panel.

1 4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap includes an inclined surface
 2 adjacent to the opening, the inclined surface arranged to increase the opening along a
 3 front edge of the flap, wherein the front edge is substantially perpendicular to the
 4 source-backing surface.

1 5. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap includes a slot.

1 6. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap includes a clip arranged to
 2 receive a portion of a source to be scanned.

1 7. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a
2 recess configured to receive a portion of the channel when the source-backing surface
3 is in close proximity to the source-contact surface.

1 8. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the platen has an upper edge, an
2 opposing lower edge, a front edge relatively coexistent with a front panel of the
3 housing and a distal edge and wherein the channel is adjacent to the lower edge of the
4 platen.

1 9. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the channel has a first end proximal
2 to a front panel of the housing and a distal end that extends at least to the distal edge
3 of the platen.

1 10. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing
2 with at least one post assembly having a plurality of spatially-separated detent
3 positions.

1 11. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing
2 with at least one adjustable fastener for closely contacting the source-backing surface
3 to the source-contact surface.

1 12. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the slot is positioned to permit the
2 placement of a relatively short source document on edge on the channel wherein
3 information to be scanned is aligned with at least a portion of the platen.

1 13. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to extend
2 the channel from the source-contact surface when an operator adjusts the source-
3 backing surface in relation to the source-contact surface to increase the width of the
4 opening.

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14. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the width of the proximal end of the channel increases over that portion of the channel that extends beyond the platen.

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15. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the channel is coated with a material having a relatively low coefficient of friction.

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16. A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:
means for optically scanning and converting image data into a digital data representation of a source;
means for spatially adjusting a source to be scanned with the means for optical scanning; and
means for supporting the source along an edge of said source during a scanning operation.

17. The assembly of claim 16, wherein the source edge support means comprises a channel.

18. The assembly of claim 16, wherein the adjusting means comprises a slot.

19. The assembly of claim 16, wherein the adjusting means comprises a first inclined surface associated with a housing and a second inclined surface associated with a flap.

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1 20. A method for saving space on a desktop, comprising:
 2 providing an optical scanner having a housing, the housing having a
 3 substantially vertical source-contact surface with a channel extending therefrom, the
 4 vertical source-contact surface including a transparent platen portion, the channel
 5 adjacent to a lower edge of the transparent platen; and
 6 providing a flap coupled to the source-contact surface, the flap having a
 7 source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the
 8 housing, wherein the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the
 9 channel form an opening for receiving an edge of a source to be scanned.

1 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
 2 inserting a leading edge of a source to be scanned into the opening formed by
 3 the source-contact surface, the flap, and the channel such that source is supported
 4 along an edge by the channel.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
 2 spatially arranging the flap and the housing wherein pressure is applied to a
 3 non-scan surface of the source and the scan surface of the source closely contacts the
 4 platen.

1 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
 2 enabling the optical scanner.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
 2 spatially arranging the flap and the housing wherein pressure is removed from
 3 the non-scan surface of the source.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
 2 removing the source from the opening.

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